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STEPHEN FOSTER HANDICAP QUOTES

FLORENT GEROUX, jockey of GUN RUNNER (winner): “I was loaded the entire trip around there. He was doing everything so easily. This horse is truly unbelievable. He’s one of the best horses I’ve ever ridden and to put forward this type of effort after running in Dubai is so impressive. I was a bit surprised to find myself on a lone-lead but I wasn’t complaining one bit. What a horse.”

STEVE ASMUSSEN, trainer of GUN RUNNER (winner): “I think it was key taking our time with this horse. We always thought he would get better with age and he’s proving that to us right now. It’s special to win a Grade I but now we have our ticket punched to the Breeders’ Cup. We got him to the Winner’s Circle here at home and we set ourselves up for a great second-half campaign. I can’t thank our owners enough. This horse is incredibly special in so many ways.”

JAVIER CASTELLANO, jockey of HONORABLE DUTY (second): “Second best today. The winner, I give a lot of credit. He was much the best horse in the race. Unfortunately, not much speed in the race. I thought about it before the race, the way I handicapped the race, a little more speed, I thought Stanford was gonna go and the other horse inside (Bird Song) was going to go. They let him (Gun Runner) dictate the pace, nice comfortable rhythm, nice comfortable pace. I think it didn’t help when my horse is coming from behind. I think it cost a little bit of the race.”

BRENDAN WALSH, trainer of HONORABLE DUTY (second): “Super. Can’t be disappointed. He ran great. Looks like he probably stepped up again. I mean what can I say? He’s just turned into a great horse.”

Next? “I don’t know. We’ll see how he comes out of it. But you know he’s a good horse and we’ll pick a spot I think we can win a real nice race with him before the end of the year.”

LUIS CONTRERAS, jockey of BREAKING LUCKY (third): “He always runs such a hard race. I thought we could’ve run second but we ran into some trouble in the stretch. I’m still proud of how well he ran.”

READE BAKER, trainer of BREAKING LUCKY (third): “We had a troubled trip down the lane, I’m not sure who exactly who got us in trouble but with a clearer trip I think we could’ve ran second. There was no catching the winner today.”

LUIS CONTRERAS, jockey of BREAKING LUCKY (third): “I was hoping to get second at the end.”

TODD PLETCHER, trainer of STANFORD (fifth): “We had excuse. We tried to follow the winner around there, put a little pressure on him. Just couldn’t fire with him.”

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